

August 21, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC -U.S. Representative Michael Arcuri (NY-24) released the following statement regarding the release of convicted terrorist Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, who orchestrated the December 21st, 1988 bombing of Pan-Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland which killed 270 people, including many with ties to Central New York. A Scottish court released Al-Megrahi to his home country of Libya on "compassionate grounds" due to his advanced, terminal prostate cancer.

"Over 20 years ago, our country was devastated at the loss of hundreds of Americans in Pan-Am Flight 103, which was bombed over Lockerbie, Scotland just before Christmas. Central New York in particular felt the deep and lasting impact of this tragedy, as Syracuse University lost 35 students and several other victims had roots in Upstate New York."

"It is deeply troubling that the Scottish government has released this convicted terrorist to live out his days as a free man in his home country of Libya. I am appalled that the Libyan government would allow Al-Megrahi the decency in death that he took away from the 270 victims who died at his hand. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of those victims - they are the ones that deserve compassion, not the terrorist whose heinous acts took away their loved ones forever."

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